

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
Pineville La. May 4th 1864

Dear Father

Yours of April 16th came safe to hand on the 2d inst. & I am happy to say found me in my usual good health.

Things are in the same condition as when my last was written. The army still lies in & around Alexandria. Our Brigade of which Col. Molineux is now in command crossed the river on the 29th April & now lies in one of the finest camps we have yet occupied. We are situated on a slight elevation, with Pine trees all around us, affording a delightful shade, & through which a cool breeze is always blowing. There is a large ravine in our front into which trees have been felled in all directions as a security against cavalry. I do not think we will stay here long as it is probable we will return to New Orleans as soon as the Gun Boats cross the falls. There is a dam being built just below the rapids to raise the river enough for the boats to cross, but this is very slow work & may take a month to finish.

I have sent home two different lots of views of places of interest where I have been. The one of the "Black Hawk" if you examine it closely, you will find to look as though it had been pricked with a pin, but it was not for those black specks are the holes made by rebel bullets of which some 2000 were fired at her.

Our cavalry went out on a reconnaissance, about 15 miles from here & discovered some 2500 rebs. They had a skirmish & our boys drove them, taking fifteen prisoners & killing & wounding as many more. The rebs intended to make a raid in here that very day, so it was fortunate our cavalry discovered them.

Edward requests that you will send word to his folks in Brooklyn that he is quite well at this date. This he wants done as the mail is so uncertain, several of our mails having been lost as they were going down the river. He will send word to his folks in regard to me every time he writes until we are back to N.O.

Give my love to all the folks. Hoping to hear from you soon again

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.

I enclose you a Confederate enlistment paper.